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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/516,691 | TOKUNAGA, TOSHIO |
| | Examiner Geoffrey L. Knable | Art Unit 1791 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS**. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment filed 10-2-2007.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mainak H. Mehta on December 5, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Claims 9-17 and 20 have been amended as follows:

9. (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein a first one of said two differently shaped kinds of rigid support members has a trapezoidal-fan shape, and a second one of said two differently shaped kinds of rigid support members has a fan trapezoidal shape.

10. (currently amended): The method of claim 9, further comprising expanding and contracting said first one of said rigid support members via a first link hingedly connected at one end portion to a bracket of said first one of said rigid support members, a first cylinder hingedly connected to another end portion of the first link and arranged substantially in parallel to a center axial line of the building bladder-drum to reciprocatedly move the other end portion of the first link in the direction of the center axial line of the building bladder-drum, and a first guide guiding radial displacement of

said first one of said rigid support members while maintaining and restraining a vertical posture of said first one of said rigid support members to the center axial line.

11. (currently amended): The method of claim 10, further comprising expanding and contracting said second one of said rigid support members via a second link hingedly connected at one end portion to a bracket of said second one of said rigid support members, a second cylinder hingedly connected to another end portion of the second link and arranged substantially in parallel to a center axial line of the building bladder-drum to reciprocatedly move the other end portion of the second link in the direction of the center axial line of the building bladderdrum, and a second guide guiding radial displacement of said second one of said rigid support members while maintaining and restraining a vertical posture of said second one of said rigid support members to the center axial line, wherein said second link has a greater length than said first link.

12. (currently amended): The method of claim 10, wherein a distance from the center axial line to the outer peripheral face of the second one of said rigid support members in ~~the diameter contraction~~ a diameter-contracted posture is smaller than that in the outer peripheral face of the first one of said rigid support members.

13. (currently amended): The method of claim 2, wherein a first one of said two differently shaped kinds of rigid support members has a trapezoidal fan shape, and

a second one of said two differently shaped kinds of rigid support members has a fan trapezoidal shape.

14. (currently amended): The method of claim 13, further comprising expanding and contracting said first one of said rigid support members via a first link hingedly connected at one end portion to a bracket of said first one of said rigid support members, a first cylinder hingedly connected to another end portion of the first link and arranged substantially in parallel to a center axial line of the building bladder-drum to reciprocatedly move the other end portion of the first link in the direction of the center axial line of the building bladder-drum, and a first guide guiding radial displacement of said first one of said rigid support members while maintaining and restraining a vertical posture of said first one of said rigid support members to the center axial line.

15. (currently amended): The method of claim 14, further comprising expanding and contracting said second one of said rigid support members via a second link hingedly connected at one end portion to a bracket of said second one of said rigid support members, a second cylinder hingedly connected to another end portion of the second link and arranged substantially in parallel to a center axial line of the building bladder-drum to reciprocatedly move the other end portion of the second link in the direction of the center axial line of the building bladder-drum, and a second guide guiding radial displacement of said second one of said rigid support members while maintaining

and restraining a vertical posture of said second one of said rigid support members to the center axial line, wherein said second link has a greater length than said first link.

16. (currently amended): The method of claim 14, wherein a distance from the center axial line to the outer peripheral face of the second one of said rigid support members in ~~the diameter contraction~~ a diameter-contracted posture is smaller than that in the outer peripheral face of the first one of said rigid support members.

17. (currently amended): The tire building drum of claim 3, wherein a first one of said two differently shaped kinds of rigid support members has a trapezoidal-fan shape, and a second one of said two differently shaped kinds of rigid support members has a fan-trapezoidal shape.

20. (currently amended): The tire building drum of claim 18, wherein a distance from the center axial line to the outer peripheral face of the second one of said rigid support members in ~~the diameter contraction~~ a diameter-contracted posture is smaller than that in the outer peripheral face of the first one of said rigid support members.

Summary of above-noted December 5, 2007 Interview: Agreement was reached on the above-noted changes in order to place this application into condition for allowance. The condition for allowance. The change to claims 9, 13 and 17 was proposed by the

examiner to correct the references to the first and second support members for consistency with the original disclosure and claims 10-12, 14-16 and 18-20 (the shapes are reversed in claims 9, 13 and 17). The changes to claims 10, 11, 14 and 15 were proposed by the examiner to correct the lack of antecedent for "the building bladder". The changes to claims 12, 16 and 20 were proposed by the examiner to clarify awkward and ambiguous language (using analogous language to that in original claim 3).

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Geoffrey L. Knable whose telephone number is 571-272-1220. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on 571-272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Geoffrey L. Knable
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1791

G. Knable
December 7, 2007